received for joint venture between Asian Breweries Limited, Singapore and Rajasthan Breweries Limited.

[English]

US Trade Law 301

6498. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Administration has placed India on its priority watch list under US trade law 301 for India's failure to provide protection to American intellectual property rights particularly its patents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with World Trade Organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) During the 1997 annual review by the US Government under their Special 301 provisions, India has been retained on the 'priority watch list'. Special 301 provisions deal with identification of countries by US Government which in their perception deny adequate and effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and fair and equitable market access to US persons who rely on IPRs.

(c) to (e) The USA has taken the matter in a dispute to the World Trading Organisation (WTO) alleging non-compliance by India of certain provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. India is contesting the allegations.

PSUs Liquidation Proceedings

6499. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings have been facing liquidation proceedings before the court of law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are determined to take initiative to revive these PSUs under the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment by Microsoft Corporation

6500. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Microsoft Corporation has decided to invest in India; and

(b) the project on which they have been agreed to invest ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) M/s. Microsoft Corpn. Pvt. Ltd., has been granted foreign collaboration approval on 15.1.1996 to set up project for manufacture of computer software, training and development, product support services and channel development and microsoft consulting services with foreign equity participation of 100% by Microsoft Corpn., U.S.A. amounting to Rs. 3.53 Crores (approx).

Wages of Coal Workers

6501. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unrest is growing among colliery workers due to non-implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in coal industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation and to implement the said agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There is no unrest or agitation in CIL or its subsidary over the issue of implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in the coal industry;

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at 'a' above.

[Translation]

Allotment of Index Number to Voters

6502. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :